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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :Michael Lax et al.
Application No. :10/775,259 Confirmation No.: 1245
Filed :February 9, 2004
For :SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CONTAINING AND
LOCKING ASSETS
Group Art Unit :3676
Examiner :Lloyd A. Gall

New York, NY 10020
February 9, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 9, 2005, which did not address the merits of the above-identified patent application, but set forth a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring applicants to make an election of the invention to be examined, applicants hereby elect the following species with traverse from the three groups identified by the Examiner for prosecution in the above-identified patent application:

1. The containing element species of FIGS. 1-3.

Claims 1-10 and 12-25 read upon FIGS. 1-3;

2. The lock species of FIGS. 19-20. Claims 1-16, 19-21, and 23-25 read upon FIGS. 19-20; and

3. The tag species of claim 21.

At least claims 1-10, 12-16 and 19-21 read upon FIGS. 1-3 and FIGS. 19-20. Claims 1-10, 12-16 and 19-21, however, may read upon additional figures and portions of the specification not embodied in FIGS. 1-3 and FIGS. 19-20. For this reason, claims 1-10, 12-16 and 19-21 should be construed in the context of the entire specification as filed -- not just the elected figures.

Applicants' election of FIGS. 1-3 and 19-20 was made to aid the Examiner in conducting a reasonable search -- not to limit the scope of claims 1-10, 12-16 and 19-21 to the embodiments illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 and 19-20. Therefore, applicant will continue to prosecute claims 1-10, 12-16 and 19-21 in light of the entire specification.

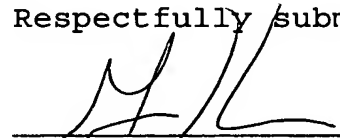
The Examiner has taken the position that no claims are generic. However, applicants respectfully submit that at least claims 1-4, 11 and 19 are generic. The election of species requirement is traversed to that extent.

Applicants understand that if a generic claim is allowed, a reasonable number of non-elected species, and all

claims that read thereon, will be rejoined to the application.

Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to pursue the non-elected species in one or more divisional applications. A prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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